

Message Text

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47

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03

ACDA-19 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-07

DRC-01 /144 W

----- 081641

R 151628Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9478

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2230

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: ETEL, DA, IC, NO, US

SUBJECT: LORAN-C MODIFICATION

REF: STATE 169834

1. COAST GUARD REP DAVID HAISLIP DISCUSSED AUGUST 13 PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF LORAN-C NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM IN NORTH ATLANTIC AREA TO BUILD IN FLEET COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY WITH K.O. GREDAL, HEAD OF DANISH NAVIGATION AND HYDROGRAPH ADMINISTRATION. DISCUSSION WAS FOLLOW-UP TO FIVE-WEEK EARLIER MEETING IN COPENHAGEN DURING WHICH HAISLIP INFORMALLY PRESENTED PROPOSAL AND ASKED FOR GREDAL'S PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF PROBABILITY OF DANISH APPROVAL OF INSTALLATION OF SYSTEM IN FAEROE ISLANDS STATION. HAISLIP CALLED AT EMBASSY BEFORE AND AFTER HIS LATEST TALK WITH GREDAL TO BRIEF EMBASSY OFFICERS REGARDING PROPOSAL AND GREDAL'S RESPONSE.

2. HAISLIP, WHO FROM PREVIOUS COPENHAGEN COAST GUARD EXPERIENCE IS WELL AWARE OF DELICATE POLITICAL
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ASPECTS OF FAEROESE SITUATION - STATED THAT GREDAL HAD

BEEN MORE POSITIVE THAN HE HAD EXPECTED. GREDAL UNDERTOOK TO MAKE FURTHER SOUNDINGS WITHIN HIS AGENCY AND POSSIBLY WITHIN DEFENSE MINISTRY IN ORDER TO GIVE HAISLIP FURTHER READING AUGUST 23-26.

3. COMMENT: AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, HAILSIP'S OVERTURES THUS FAR HAVE DEALT ONLY WITH TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF THE PROJECT. THE CRUCIAL ASPECT IS, OF COURSE, THE POLITICAL ONE. ALTHOUGH THE NATO ISSUE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIESCENT IN THE FAEROES LATELY AND IS NOT REPORTEDLY PLAYING A LARGE ROLE IN THE CURRENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN, THE ANTIPATHY TO DANISH NATO INVOLVEMENT RUNS DEEP IN THE FAEROES. SHOULD SUCH A PROPOSAL SURFACE BEFORE NOVEMBER ELECTION, IT COULD EASILY BECOME A MAJOR ISSUE WITH ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS THERE.

4. EMBASSY FEELS PRELIMINARY SOFTENING PROCESS STARTED BY HAISLIP CAN HAVE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS. GIVEN DANISH FAEROESE SENSITIVITIES NOTED ABOVE RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED RAISE THIS MATTER OFFICIALLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH OFFICE OF FAEROESE AFFAIRS IN MINISTRY OF STATE, SINCE POLITICAL ASPECTS WILL BE DECISIVE IN FINAL OUTCOME.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON THIS PROJECT WITH INDICATION OF URGENCY OF REQUIREMENT.
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